THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) There is a need for improving the quality of cotton and reduce the levels of contamination present in cotton today. Deficiencies at various stages of post harvest management and obsolete ginning and pressing machinery leads to contamination which includes presence of non-cotton fibres such as jute/hessin. woven plastics, organic matters like leaves, feathers, leather as well as substances like grease/oil, tar, etc.

(c) to (e) It is not correct that Indian cotton has been largely rejected by foreign countries. We have been exporting cotton regularly. However, there is a need to improve the quality of cotton and towards this end Govt. has drawn up an Action Plan for improvement in ginning and pressing industry which includes *inter alia* programme of education, training of workers, preparation of maintenance manuals for machinery.

Utilisation of Land Occupied by Closed Textile Mills in Ahmedabad

4552. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to utilise the land occupied by some of the closed textile mills in Ahmedabad in a bid to shore up the economy of Gujarat ;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had taken over 16 sick textile mills in 1986 but restarted only 6 ;

(c) what efforts are being made to restart remaining textile mills ;

(d) what is the total number of sick textile mills which are not functioning in Gujarat at present :

(e) what is the total number of workers affected due to the closure ;

(f) what efforts are being made to re-employ them and clear their dues ; and

(g) whether the land occupied by closed textile mills will be utilised for other useful purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) According to the policy laid down by the Government of Gujarat, surplus land with differernt textile mills is being sold by the Gujarat State Textile Corporation Limited (A Government of Gujarat Enterprise).

(b) As per the information provided by the State Government, Government of Gujarat had nationalised 12 closed mills in January, 1986 out of which 6 mills are being run by the Gujarat State Textile Corporation.

(c) Government have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of viable sick/closed mills.

(d) and (e) As on 31-1-94, 18 mills were registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick and were reported to be not functioning. The number of workers affected is 41659.

(f) While there is no scheme to re-employ the workers of closed mills, however, Government has created a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide *interim relief* to the affected workers of permanently/partially closed textile mills on a tapering basis for 3 years.

(g) It is for the State Government to take a suitable decision.

Modernisation of Powerlooms in Gujarat

4553. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has sent any proposal for providing financial assistance to modernise powerloom in the State ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Doesn't arise.